ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Geneva Baptist Ass'n,

Held with Adoniram Baptist Church, Geneva County, Alabama, October 26, 27, 28, 1895.

OFFICERS:

Rev. J. F. Register, Moderator, Geneva, Ala.; W. L. Chancey, Clerk, Eunola, Ala.; R. Mills, Treasurer, Marl, Alabama.

The next session will be held with the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, on the Wednesday before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1896.

Printed at The Citizen Office, Geneva, Ala

Minutes.

The Geneva Baptist Association met October, 26th, 1894 at 11 o'clock, a. m., at Adoniram Baptist Church Geneva county Alabama.

After some songs the introductory serman was preached by Rev. J. F. Register.

Dinner was afterwards announced and everybody was invited to partake.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30, p. m.

The body was called to order by the moderator, prayer by S. Wilford, after which the moderator announced that they were ready for business.

The letters of the different churches were called for and read by T. W. Capps and Lee Ashcraft, as follows:

Adoniram—W. L. Chancey, R. H. Martin, E. M. Hulon.

Shiloh—J. A. Clark, A. B. Jernigan, W. P. Anderson.

Fellowship—E. L. Hardwick, Jas. Watson.

New Teamon—J. W. Yew, George Vickers.

Spring Creek—T. H. Crutchfield, J. W. Crutchfied.

Friendship—W. P. Noblin, A. M. Mills, Zack Bell.

New Prospect—J. W. Auston, B. R. Messer.

Leonia—A. Gilman.

New Hope—A. J. Owens, J. E. Dancey, B. F. Yettock.

Pleasant Grove—J. S. Osborn, M. W. Lewis, W. J. Busby.

New Home.

Zion Hill—W. M. Fortson, W. J. Pelham.

Pleasant Hill—G. J. Canant, John Starlin, C. C. Kirkland.

Geneva—J. Y. Martin, J. F. Register, John Coleman Lee Ashcraft.

Herrican—J. D. Johnson, G. W. Pittman.

Christian Home—C. W. Reeves, A. J. May.

Union—G. K. P. Martin, Elijah Dean.

Elbethel—J. G. Brown, G W Chanceler.

Pilgrim Rest—David Carroll, G B Clark, W H Holoway, W. F. King.

A motion that the officers be elected by tellers resulted as follows: J. F. Register, moderator; W. L. Chauncey, clerk, and R. Miller, treasurer.

After a few remarks by the moderator the body was pronounced ready for business. Petitionary letters were called for. One was received from Herrican, one from Home Union, and one from Christian Home. They were received with welcome and given the right hand of fellowship.

Called for correspondents, and received S Willford, from the Columbia Association.

Called for agents of missions.

Returned correspondents to the different associations as follows: Graves Association, A. Gilmore, G. W. Pitman; Sardas Association, G. W. Austin; West Florida, J. S. McCormick; Columbia, James Blount; Newton, G. J. Canant, John Starlin, W. L. Chauncey; Pea River, G. J. Canant; Judson, J. Y. Starlin, A. B. Jernigan, E. L. Hardwick, M. T. Brackin.

Adjourned until Monday at 8:30 a. m.

Preaching Saturday night by John Patten; text, John xii: 43: "For they love the praises of men more than the praise of God." Sunday morning at 9 o'clock a prayer service was lead by Rev. J. F. Register. Preaching at 11 o'clock by G. J. Canant; text, Romans, iv: 16: "Therefore it is of faith that it might be of grace." Preaching at 3 o'cjock p. m. by Jas. Blount; text, Luke ix: 60: "Jesus said to him let the dead bury their dead, but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

MONDAY—8:30 A. M.

The body met according to adjournment. Prayer by M. Osborne. Called the roll and corrected same. The following committees were appointed:

Temperance—J. J. Morrice, S. McCormick.

Nomination—J. Y. Martin, David Carroll, B. F. Yattock.

Education—Lee Ashcraft, C. S. Reeves, R H Martin.

Sabbath Schools—A. B. Jernigan, W. L. Chauncey, W. M. Vaughn.

Deceased Ministers—W. M. Fortsen, George Vickers, A. V. Mills.

Documents—J. E. Dancey, A. Gilmore, E. J. Hardwick.

Bible distribution—J. W. Auston, John Starlin, J. W. Yew.

Periodicals—W. P. Noblin, C. C. Kirkland, N. J. Pelham.

Missions—P. L. Mosely, A. W. Bean, Y. W. Capps.

Finance—J. K. P. Martin, G. W. Pitmon, J. E. Coleman.

Standing committees—Temperance—A. B. Jernigan, Y. W. Capps, J. B. Albrittin.

Missions—John Patten, W. M. Vaughn, G. W. Canant.

Sunday Schools—A. W. Bean, David Carroll, J. W. Austin.

Divine service—H. J. Owins, C. C. Kirkland, B. H. Martin, W. L. Chancey.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Documents, see Appendix A; Bible distribution, see Appendix B; Sabbath School, see Appendix C; Deceased Ministers, see Appendix D; Nominations, see Appendix E; Missions, see Appendix F; Education, see Appendix G; Periodicals, see Appendix H; Temperance, see Appendix I; Finance, Appendix J; Divine service, Appendix K.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the resolution passed at the last Association, in regard to receiving anti-Missionarys upon their baptism, be erased.

RESOLVED, That the clerk have $32 for the printing of 400 minutes, and his services, and each church to receive its pro rata of minutes according to the amount of money sent. A. B. JERNIGAN.

APPENDICES.

A.

We, your committee on Documents, submit the following: We find nothing which, in our judgment, deserves the attention of the body. Respectfully submitted. A. GILMAN, Ch'm'n.

B.

We, Your committee on Bible distribution, submit the following: The distribution of God's Word is a work of great importance, and is, we fear, often neglected. Should the Association continue to do a mission work it should be made the duty of the missionary to carry Bibles and Testaments, as has been done for the past two years; and should this not be done your committee thinks it would be well for the pastors to carry them, and this would do some good in distributing the Word of God. Respectfully submitted.

J. W. Auston, Ch'm'n.

C.

Your special committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report: The sunday School is not designed to supercede, but to aid family instruction. It must be remembered, always, that religious training in the family cannot be dispensed with. Parental obligation can no more be transferred than parental relatives can be changed. But it may be assumed as a fact that those parents who are most faithful in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord most gladly avail themselves of the aid furnished by Sunday School instruction. And then how many un-Godly parents are to be found everywhere who are incompetent to give their children religious training, and who would not, if they were competent. Are these children to be uncared for? No, nor those whose parents are dead. The sympathies of all generous hearts are enlisted in behalf of orphans. All children are suitable subjects for the Sunday School. Whether their parents are pious, or ungodly or dead, let all the children be gathered together to receive religious training on the Lord's Day. Superintendents and teachers of Sunday Schools must remember that Scriptural instruction is the one thing to be kept in view. The Sunday School Times makes an excellent point on this and gives us this word of wisdom: It is not the scholar who enters, but the scholar who learns, that indicates the character and measure of success of the Sunday School. Getting

new scholars is the simplest and easiest part of Sunday School work. It is easier to get a scholar than to keep him; easier to keep him than to teach him; easier to teach him than to train him in external Christian duties—easier to do all this than to win his heart to the acceptance and following of Christ as his Savior; easier to lead him into Christ's Kingdom than to waken his ambition and direct his energies for active, self-sacrificing service therein. Not the swelling figures of the secretary's annual report, but the truths taught in God's divine Word, which illuminate the mind, the lives changed, the workmen trained for Christ's service—these are the things that make a successful Sunday School. Literary instruction, properly so-called, is given in week-day schools. The impartation and reception of Scriptural knowledge are the distinguishing features of the Sunday School. Great care should be exercised in the selection of Sunday School libraries. Books inculcating erroneous views must be rejected, and the literature provided for the children must be religious and evangelical. Sunday School teachers should make it a point to urge, by personal appeal, the claims of the gospel upon every scholar. Every such appeal ought to be preceded, accompanied and followed up by earnest prayer to God for his blessing. Without his approving smile no effort will be successful. It is proper to say a few words as to the relation of Sunday Schools to the churches. Ordinarily these schools are formed by the churches and permitted to use their houses of worship. They should be carried on under the general direction of the churches and be held responsible thereto. A church should regard its Sunday School as one of the agencies by which to meet its obligations to train the rising generation in the fear of God. And when this is the case the church is really at work in the Sunday School. It would be a happy circumstance if facts would authorize this definition of a Sunday School: A church actively at work on the Lord's day for the good of the children. One should put himself into his church for all he is worth and for all he weighs, as a

Sunday School worker. He should be better at nothi
and in no position than at such work as a Christian
his church. One may be a better church member tha
he is a Christian, but no one can be a better Christia
than he is a church member. His church life is the e
pression of his religious life, and can be no better e
pressed than in Sunday School work. "The classes
the school," it has been well said, "should be compose
not only of children, but also of the grown-up people i
the neighborhood—grand-fathers and grand-mothers—
fathers and mothers—men and women." The scho
should be considered one of the regular meetings of th
church. Pastors should summon the entire people t
assemble on the Lord's day, either as teachers or scho
ars. It should be considered as inexcusable for father
and mothers to absent themselves from the Bible classe
as for boys and girls to absent themselves from the Sun
day school. That pastor who will speak to his congre
gation on this subject three minutes before sermon eac
Sunday for one year, and then work to get up classes a
he may be able through the week, will be astonished a
the result. And ten years of such effort by all the min
isters of the gospel would work a complete revolutio
in the churches. Instances might be given to sho
that a church sometimes more than doubles its powe
by employing its private members in this way. And
we, your committee, recommend that every church i
this Association take this matter in hand, as a church
and that, under the direction of the several churches i
conference, recommend and organize a Sabbath school
and let each member obligate himself to take an activ
part and urge others to do the same. Respectfully sub
mitted. A. B. Jernigan, Ch'm'n.

D.

We, your committee on deceased ministers, beg leav
to make the following report: We find that the Lord
in his infinite mercy, has graciously spared all of ou
ministering brethren. Let us pray that God may fil
our hearts with gratitude and spare still to us thos

who are so faithfully laboring in the vineyard of the Lord. W. M. Fortson, Ch'm'n.

E.

We, your committee on nominations, beg leave to make the following report: We recommend Bro. P. L. Mosely to preach the introductory sermon at the next Association, Bro. James Blount alternate. As to the place of holding the next Association, we refer that question to the present body, and ask that the time of meeting be on the Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in October. Respectfully, J. T. Martin, Ch'm'n.

F.

We, your committee, are pleased to report that some progress is being made in the mission work in our own bounds, and that the reports from foreign fields are encouraging. We believe that the Spirit of missions is the Spirit of Christ, and that the Spirit dwells in the breast of every truly regenerated person, and that this mission work will deepen and widen until the knowledge of Jesus Christ will cover this earth as the waters cover the ocean's bed. We would recommend that our churches take up monthly collections and that our brethren exert their utmost efforts to obey the Redeemer's great command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Ex. Committee.

G.

Dear Brethren: Our country is, possibly, more enthused on the subject of education than ever before in its history. Schools looking to the advancement of our children are found in nearly every community within the Association's territory. We, as Baptists, should feel very proud for this. Why? Because whenever we can have a good school, with a good, Christian teacher, a good Sunday School in its path soon must follow—a good church, with men and women fit and prepared for the Master's work. We desire to impress upon you, brethren, the necessity of having competent, Christian teachers; competent, because they can't teach your children unless they have been taught, and Christian, for

how can they lead your children to Christ unless they know the way? Think not that the teacher is there during the school hours only, for he is as the parent is, in the mind of the child so long as that child lives. He is like source or beginning of the little streamlet, which, if pure and clean at its start, may run its entire course without again being purified. Education creates a desire to know and worship a divine being—something higher and purer than himself.

LEE ASHCRAFT,
C. W. REEVES, } Committee.
R. H. MARTIN.

H.

Your committe on periodicals beg leave to make the following report: We would urge upon the brethren the importance of taking the "Alabama Baptist," "Kind Words," and "Foreign Mission Journal," that they may be enlightened, strengthened and encouraged, and brought in sympathy and harmony with the great Baptist brethren. We also recommend that our evangelist, if we send out one, do all he can to distribute good Baptist books throughout our bounds.

W. P. NOBLIN, Ch'm'n.

I.

Dear Brethren: While we rejoice to be able to report that the cause of temperance is rapidly advancing in some parts of our country, and that the public is beginning to frown on the intemperate man, we regret to be forced to say that some of our own brethren visit bar rooms and give their influence to Satan; but we are glad to know that the evils of intemperance are so plainly visible that even bar keepers look with contempt upon church members who patronize them, and deem them vile hypocrites. Thefore we urge upon our pastors to preach frequently upon the subject of intemperance, and also recommend our churches to discipline their members for the intemperant use of ardent spirits.

J. J. MORRIS, Ch'm'n.

Brethren of the Geneva Baptist Association:

At this, your annual meeting, you naturaljy expect

me, as your missionary, to make my annual report, and I beg leave to submit the following: At the commencement of the year's work I thought best to enlarge the boundary of the association, and made some efforts to this end, there being missionary work necessary west of us. I have not been successful in this, there being an association just formed in the territory where this work was to be done. I give you herewith the work done during the year: I have been engaged 163 days, have traveled 2,029 miles, preached 178 sermons, organized 3 churches; baptized 40, received by letter 35, restored 10, baptized by others in connection with my labors 3, making a total of 88 members received; distributed 61 bibles and testaments (of this number 12 have been given away at my own expense, the board making no donation to me at all) and about 2,500 pages of tracts. The mission work to be done by this association another year must be, first, to enlarge the boundary of the association. There is need of mission work to be done south of us on the west side of Choctawhatchie River, between this and the Graves association. There has been some work done in this territory by the Graves association; do not know with what success. East of the river work is necessary in the territory formerly occupied by the West Florida association. It may be that some work is necessary east of us bordering on the Columbia association. West of us there has just been formed the Sardis association, which, we doubt not, will occupy the territory in that direction. Possibly in one or two places in the present limits of the association good might be accomplished. The question before us, brethren, is: Shall we undertake to do this work? Ask the three churches organized during the year and you have "yes" for an answer, as their delegates are here, instructed to pledge five dollars each for the support of a missionary another year. As to the colportage work, I have not been able to carry out the recommendations of your committee on Bible distribution, not having funds of my own and the Association making no appropriation for this work. It is to be hoped that you will continue

this work. In conclusion, brethren, accept my thanks for the universally kind treatment I have received at your homes and your churches. And to pastors I wish to tender my kindest thanks for their assistance when called upon, and without a difference of feeling toward any, I ask to be pardoned for making special mention of Bros. G. J. Canant and John Patten, who have labored so faithfully with me and appointments for me. May the God of Heaven guide you in all your labor. JOHN F. REGISTER, Miss'ry.

J.

We, you committee on finance beg leave to make the following report: We find paid from the different churches for state missions, $228.23; home missions from churches at Geneva, $16.35; foreign missions, from churches at Geneva, $26.25; ministerial education, from churches at Geneva, $10.00; Baptist orphanage, from churches at Geneva, $8.15; minutes, from difierent churches, $32.95; Associational purposes, $7.85; collection Sunday, $7.00; total, $336.98, Collection on Sunday for our old beloved brother, M. Osborn, who has been working in the vineyard of the Lord for many years, to the amount of $15; also a collection for Sister Mollie Whit to the amount of four dollars and twenty-five cents.

J. R. P. MARTIN, Ch'm'n.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby tendered the members of Adoniram church and vicinity at large for the kindness shown us while among them, and especially the ladies, who have the burden to bear on all occasions like this. C. C. KIRKLAND.

Moved to adjourn while singing "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord." The Association took the parting hand to meet with Pilgrim Rest Baptist church, about twenty-five miles north-east of the town of Geneva, commencing October 21, 1896.

J. F. REGISTER, Moderator, Geneva, Ala.
W. L. CHANCEY, Clerk, Eunola, Ala.
B. MILLS, Treasurer, Marl, Alabama.

STATISTICS OF THE GENEVA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCH	STATE AND COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last reported	Increase by: Baptism	Letter	Voucher, Restoration	Dec by: Letter	Exclusion	Death	Present membership	SUNDAY-SCHOOL: Officers and Teachers	Pupils	Ordained Ministers	SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME & P. O. ADDRESS	Days in which Church meets
Pilgrim Rest	Dale, Ala.	G. J. Canant,	G. W. Holloway	Wicksburg, Ala.	14	16	19			7		110					3
Hurricane	Holmes, Fla	J. F. Register,	G. W. Pitman	Holmes, Fla.	48	9	2		5			22					4
Pleasant Grove	Holmes,	John Patten,	W. H. Grubbs	Eunola, Ala.	81	1			1	1	7	2 74			2		4
Shiloh	Geneva, Ala.	James Blount.	J. J. Peacock	Dundee	99	12	9	1		4	1	94	10	50		F Tindal, Dundee, Ala.	
Union	Geneva,	J. F. Register.		Dundee		6	2					21					2
Spring Creek	Geneva,	J. L. C. White	M. A. Crutchfield.	Geneva	39	4						41					3
New Teamon	Geneva,	S. Willerford,	L. W. Tate.	Warwick	66	9	3		1	4	4	73					
Pleasant Hill	Geneva,	James Blount.	C. C. Kirkland	Dundee		7	4		2	12	5	85			2		4
Christian Home	Geneva,	G. J. Canant,	C. T. Lewis	Watford		5	5		2			21					
Leonia	Holmes, Fla.	J. F. Register,	W. H. Smith	Union, Fla.	53	18				8	2	63	6	41		w M Vaughn, Union	4
Elbethel	Geneva,	H. S. Nichols,	G. W. Chancellor	Coffee Springs, Ala.	46	2	2		2	4	1	50					1
New Prospect	Geneva,	J. F. Register,	B. R Meser.	Marl	38	5	1			3		41					1
Zion Hill	Geneva,	S. Willerford,	W. H. White	Warwick	28	2	1		1	5		28					4
Fellowship	Geneva,	James Blount.	James Watson	High Bluff	6	10	8	6				30					2
New Hope	Holmes, Fla	J. F. Register.	J. E. Dancy	Holmes, Fla	65		2		1	1		67					2
Geneva	Geneva, Ala.	P. L. Moseley.	Wm. Barnett	Geneva, Ala	126	8	16			4	1	2 143	14	126	2	A W Bean, Geneva	1-3
Friendship	Geneva,	P. L. Moseley.	P. W. Capps.	Costilla	79	9		1		2	3	1 83	5	31		E E Beard, Geneva	3
Adonirom	Geneva,	G. J. Canant,	W. E. Whidden	Eunola	46	13	7		2		9	1 59	5	31		W. E. Whidden, Eunola	2 4
New Home																	
					936	127	72	8	17	48	40	61 105	40	279	6		

Churches organized during the year: Union, Huurricane, Christian Home.

Financial Exhibit of the Geneva Baptist Association.

CHURCH	State Missions: Cash	State Missions: Voucher	Home Missions: Cash	Home Missions: Voucher	Foreign Missions: Cash	Foreign Missions: Voucher	Bible and Colportage.	Minutes	Associational Purposes	Pastor's salary	Value of buildings and furniture
Pilgrim Rest		$	$				$	$ 1 65	1 00		
Hurricane								1 00			
Pleasant Grove	$10 30							1 00	60		$ 1
Shiloh	5 00							2 50	2 50		
Union	5 00							1 00	75		
Spring Creek								75			
New Teamon								1 00			
Pleasant Hill								2 00	1 00		
Christian Home								75			
Leonia									1 55		300
Elbethel								1 25	1 00		460
New Prospect	16 00							1 00			
Zion Hill								1 00			
Fellowship			2 00					1 00			300
New Hope								1 50			
Geneva	88 00		10 35		26 25			2 00		$600	1250
Friendship	1 00	15 35		10 00		2 50	1 00	2 00		56	
Adonirom								1 00	1 00		
New Home											

The Women's Society of Geneva contributed $10,00 for State missions, and the Friendship church $2.00 for ministerial education.